

# The West Virginian

"THE PAPER THAT GOES HOME"

PUBLISHED DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY  
by the Fairmont Printing and Publishing Company.  
Publication Office, Monroe Street.

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TELEPHONES—1105, 1106, 1107. All departments reached through private exchange.

Foreign Advertising Representative, ROBERT E. WARD, 325 Fifth Avenue, New York; 5 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.  
BY MAIL—(Payable in advance only.) One year \$5.00; six months \$2.50; three months \$1.50. One month, 60c.  
BY CARRIER—(In Fairmont.) One year, \$7.00; six months, \$3.50; one month, 60c; one week, 15c. Per copy Three Cents.  
BY CARRIER—(Outside of Fairmont.) One month, 75c; one week, 15c. By carrier Three Cents.  
All subscriptions payable in advance.  
When asking for change in address give old as well as new address.

Entered at the Postoffice at Fairmont, West Virginia, as second class matter.

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TUESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 8, 1918.



## JOIN THE GAS CONSUMERS' ASSO.

It is most gratifying that the newly organized Gas Consumers' association is going to press vigorously the test of the rights of the people of West Virginia to get all the gas they need from the companies distributing the fuel. Going right ahead regardless of delays, suggestions for compromise and all other attempts to obstruct or divert the movement is the only method by which they can establish their rights securely in law. Until that is done it would be folly to think of any other course.

In the mean time the gas consuming public, especially the domestic consumer, should show where he stands in the matter by joining the association. The men who are taking a lead in this movement are sincere and filled with zeal for the best interests of the community, and of all West Virginia, but unless their experience is going to be vastly different from all the attempts that have ever before been made to make the gas corporations see matters in a reasonable and fair light they are going to have a very unpleasant time of it. If they have the right kind of support they will carry on the fight with the same spirit with which they began it, but if the public does as it has so frequently done before in struggles against corporate greed, permit the public spirited leaders to fight alone, there will be times before it is over when they will be sorely tempted to quit and wash their hands of the whole ugly business.

So, Mr. Gas Consumer, for your sake, for the sake of the industrial future of the state and as an indication that you appreciate what is being done and will be done for you, send a dollar to George W. Dudderar, of Clarksburg, the secretary, and ask to be enrolled as a member. The dollar will not amount to much, but the membership expression of moral support will. Do it right now.

## LETTER CARRIERS' PAY.

POSTMASTER GENERAL BURLISON'S department is piling up a surplus which in some years has reached the large total of \$10,000,000. And in the meantime the men are leaving every branch of the service in droves, those who remain are so badly overworked that they are able to do only about 75 per cent of the work that they are capable of under favorable circumstances, and the service is being shot to pieces in many ways.

The general manager of a great industrial corporation under whose administration such evils grew up would promptly be removed on the ground that he was short sighted, incompetent and demoralizing and not the kind of a man that should be entrusted with a great organization. And in putting a new man in the place of the board of directors would see to it that a number of sweeping changes of policy were instituted.

In the case of the Postoffice department the board of directors is Congress, and while that body cannot get rid of the Postmaster General as easily as a mismanaged corporation could get rid of an executive, it can if it wants to without consulting Mr. Burlison's views in the matter introduce the reforms. When these reforms have been given the authority of law Mr. Burlison will be confronted with the alternative of enforcing them or getting out of the position he holds with as much grace as he can command.

One of the first of these reforms which Congress should enact is pay adjustments for all the men, and service adjustments for some of them. How many men drawing wages are compelled to face the 50 per cent or more increase in the cost of living which has taken place since then on the pay they were getting in 1907? Not many of them, but among those who are doing it are the letter carriers all over the country. This newspaper agrees with the letter carriers of Fairmont that they should have some relief. They would be entitled to it even if the Postoffice department was not a money making department, for in this

branch of the public service efficiency is of much more importance than cost. But in view of the fact that the department has been piling up a surplus to withhold an increase any longer would be rank injustice.

## DRAFT LAW LEGAL.

THAT the Supreme court would declare the selective service act constitutional was exactly what every one capable of thinking in a straight line about such things expected. The feeling that it was not, because the men who were drawn into the service through its operation were being sent to Europe, which many worthy people had, grew out of popular error. It was long believed by many that the nation could only use the regular establishment for foreign service and that the organized militia could only be used to repel invasion.

That here and there a man who ought to have known better was included in the number who believed in this theory is not to be wondered at. That probably explains Hannis Taylor, and it is about the only explanation that could be made, for Hannis Taylor is a lawyer of more than common ability.

The present opinion which specifically states that the power given to Congress to declare war includes power to require military service both at home and abroad answers the doubt that was in some men's minds, but an opinion handed down by Justice Field in 1869 covered the matter full enough to satisfy any one whose citizenship is red blooded enough to be worthy of the men who fought in the earlier wars of the Republic. In Table's case Justice Field said:

"Among the powers assigned to the National government is the power to raise and support armies and the power to provide for the government and the regulation of the land and naval forces." The execution of these powers falls within the line of its duties; and its control over the subject is plenary and exclusive. It can determine without question from any state authority, how the armies shall be raised, whether by volunteer enlistment or forced draft, the age at which the soldier shall be received and the period for which he shall be taken, the compensation he shall be allowed, and the service to which he shall be assigned."

When put to the test the war power of Congress is as broad and as deep as the necessities of the government require. It is fair to infer that Lincoln held such an opinion and this theory is shared by every practical minded man. Senator Knox, of Pennsylvania, made a flatfooted assertion to that effect early in the recent special session of Congress. There are two good old common law maxims which it is well to remember in connection with all such matters—"The safety of the people is the supreme law" and "Between public and private rights, the public right must prevail."

Major General Goethals, who is already acting quartermaster general, is also to be War department director of transportation and storage. These are duties with which he can feel at home and he is bound to get results with a minimum amount of fuss. And that is something that is badly needed in Washington just now.

Clifford Thorne, who told the Senate investigating committee a lot of his personal opinions about the coal situation yesterday, was not very strong on details, but he did say that one Illinois operator is selling coal to the government for use at Camp Dodge at one price and to the C. B. & Q. railroad for a much smaller price, and that will look bad in the newspapers read by coal consumers, but the full truth probably is that the railroad being a more wide awake buyer of coal than the government is getting its supply on a long term contract which specifies a smaller price than the current figure.

U-boats sank the Harry Luckenbach the other day, and there probably was some loss of life. In the Mediterranean an English torpedo boat destroyer was torpedoed. These incidents serve to remind us that the undersea pirates are still at work, but considering the amount of commerce that is being carried on all the seven seas they no longer amount to much.

Former Senator Bailey, of Texas, was among those who opposed woman suffrage at the hearing held by the House Suffrage committee yesterday. Bailey says he is opposed because women are incapable of performing military service, sheriff service and jury service. That gives one a fine line on the mental attainments of Joe Bailey, who for a long time had a large number of people believe that he had regular brains. This argument against equal suffrage was abandoned long ago by intelligent people because it is not founded on fact as it applies to women and because if suffrage were to be based upon these things a lot of men would have to be disfranchised. Wonder where Bailey has been hibernating since his questionable corporation associations forced him out of public life?

Britain's new ambassador to Washington is to be Earl Reading, lord chief justice, and it is believed that this appointment means that Northcliffe, the British war commissioner, will not return. If that is true, it also means that when in the future the British feel that it is necessary to lecture us on the way we should behave it will be done with more tact than the dictatorial publisher could muster.

## SHORT AND SNAPPY

Speaking of old fashioned winters, this one goes away back to the ice age.—Wheeling Register.

Every time you slap a stamp on your book you are taking a slap at the kaiser.—Parkersburg News.

You can see the Stars and Stripes written all over the face of the soldier boys who have been home on furloughs within the last few weeks.—Uniontown Evening Genius.

ahead and settle the matter without them. Government is going to control the binder twice supplies this year. That'll give the Dakota farmers one more thing to be mad at the government about. Clifford Thorne told the Senate committee coal operators are making too much money. Which is a sure sign that Clifford does not have much money tied up in coal producing. The real blasted class in coal production is the miners and they have been on short rations most of the time because they could not work. Henry A. Wise Wood the well known patriot is "agin" woman suffrage now, although he used to be for it. Probably found out that he could not run the suffrage organizations.

Henry is strong for running things, but some how or the other he does not have much success with any of his undertakings in that direction.

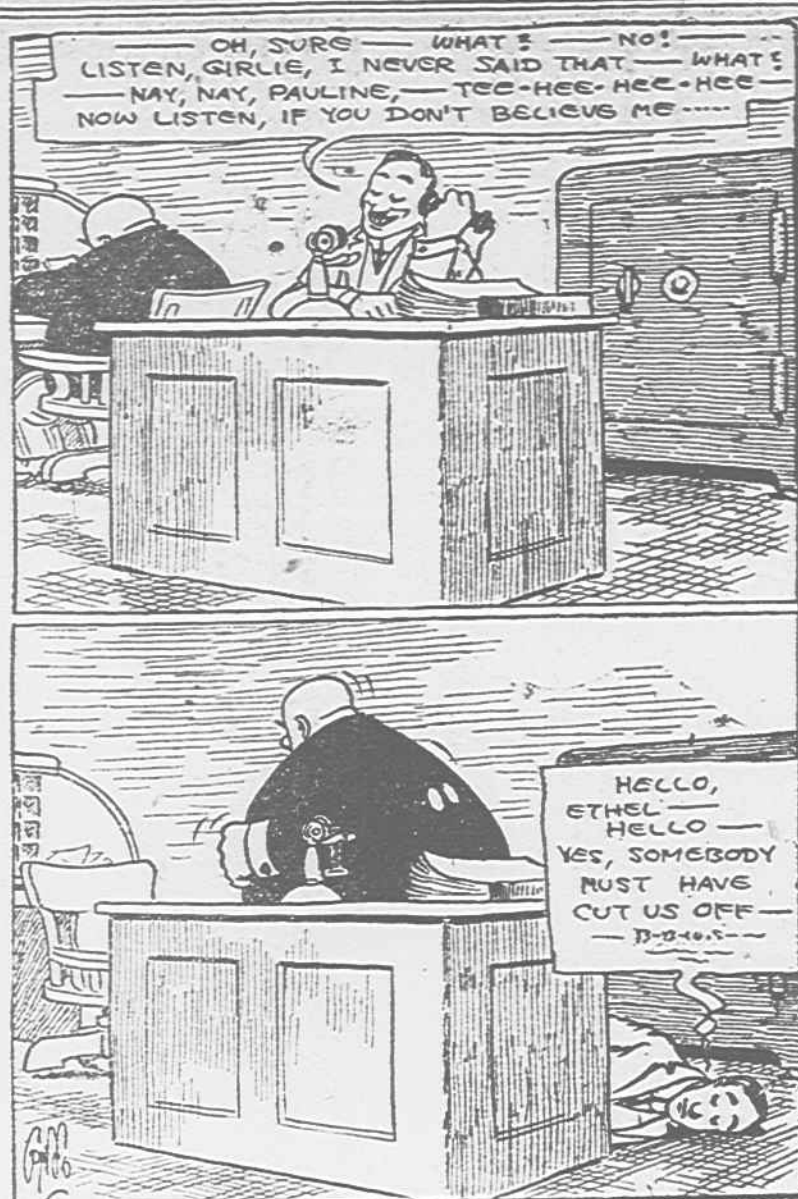
## What People Say and Some Side Remarks

Sam R. Nuzum, who is chairman of the general committee of the Elks' Minstrel, a charity fund benefit, set for January 31 and February 1, was talking about the Elks shows and made a remark that has been heard in Fairmont hundreds of times:

"The best show ever put on by the Elks was the burlesque on 'Uncle Tom's Cabin.' There have been many splendid home talent shows staged by that lodge but

## OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE

(BY CONDO)



the 'Uncle Tom' carried away the biggest honors."

One need not hide his head in disgrace just because he is not fully alive to the importance of war work. There is plenty of time to get into the work. J. M. Brownfield, president of the People's Bank, was explaining why that institution did not make such a good showing in the first Liberty Loan as in the second:

"You see we didn't realize that it was so important."

There are unfortunately a great number of people in Marion county who have not yet realized that war work is important, and they should study the War Savings Stamps literature.

Rev. H. G. Stoetzer has a new slogan and a timely one:

"Do not merely your bit but your best."

There is an abundance of wood in West Virginia and it surprises those who are not acquainted with the people of the Mountain State to see coal hauled ten miles by team when wood is near by and being permitted to rot. E. M. Grant, of Morgantown, explains it by claiming that cutting wood is a punishment meted out to farm boys until they come to abhor it. He confessed:

"I would rather do pretty near anything there is in the way of work than to cut wood. I did enough of that when a boy. That was invariably my punishment for wrongdoing and it has turned me against that work to this day."

## KNOWS SOMETHIN' HE WON'T TELL



This is Post Wheeler, U. S. diplomat at Tokio, and Hallie Ermine Reeves, who is his wife. Or, this is Hallie Ermine Reeves, the famous novelist and Post Wheeler, who is her husband. The Wheelers have but recently returned from the Japanese capital, where Wheeler was counselor of the American legation. He is on his way to Stockholm to take a similar post. Wheeler knows what the future of the Japanese question is, but—he won't tell.

## Evening Chat

Speaking of the weather which is a more than ordinarily interesting topic of conversation just now the Pittsburgh Gazette-Times this morning printed the following which seems to be all right except that one has to go farther back than 20 years to find temperatures that equal the low ones of the recent cold snap:

Does nature even up the weather? Is she given to averages, and does the mysterious pendulum of temperature swing from extreme warm cycles to extreme cold ones, taking a period of years in the swinging? All these questions were answered yesterday at the United States Weather Bureau when, in response to a request from the Gazette-Times, W. S. Brotzman, observer in Forecaster Pennyworth's office in the Oliver building, proceeded to take the temperature records 40 years back to demonstrate mathematically that we are about to move into the pleasant cycles soon.

The question was brought up in a letter to The Gazette-Times by Capt. J. H. Johnson, of Smith's Ferry, who, in the main, asked if we are moving into a colder climate for good, or will nature balance the sheet. "The experience of the weather bureau is that the temperature pendulum swings back and forth about every 20 years from deficiencies of temperatures to excesses," Mr. Brotzman explained, "and we will just go to work to see if nature does average her heat and cold spells."

The figures given first cover a period beginning with 1878 and ending with 1897. Capt. Johnson, according to his letter, was under the impression that nature has a shorter cycle in her balancing act than will be shown. "The 20 years before and including 1897 showed a deficiency of 2.556 degrees, and the next 20 years closing with 1917, shows an excess of 2.667, demonstrating we are near the back swing of the pendulum."

The unit of computation is based upon the average temperature a day and the weekly, monthly and annual tables are from the daily unit. The first 20 years showed an excess of 2.556 degrees and a deficiency of 5.411 with a deficiency balance of 2.556. The last 20 years showed an excess of 4.551 and a deficiency of 1.886, with an excess at the end of that period of 2.667.

## You May Find It In Stocking

Cincinnati authority says your troublesome corns just loosen and fall off.

Sore corns, hard corns, soft corns or corns between the toes just loosen in their sockets and fall off the next day if you will apply directly upon the corn a few drops of a drug called freezezone, says a Cincinnati authority.

You merely put a drop or two of this freezezone on the tender, touchy corn and instantly the corn stops burning, then tomorrow some time you may find the old torturous pest somewhere in your stocking, having fallen off entirely without a particle of soreness, pain or irritation. The skin surrounding and beneath the former corn will be as healthy, pink and smooth as the palm of your hand.

A quarter ounce of freezezone is sufficient to rid one's feet of every corn or callus, and any druggist will charge but a few cents for it. It is a compound made from ether.

## Bumstead's Worm Syrup

A safe and sure remedy for worms. Good the test for 50 years. IT NEVER FAILS. To children it is an angel of mercy. FOR ADULTS TO TAKE, NO SICKNESS, NO PAIN, NO NEED. One bottle has killed 125 worms. All druggists and dealers, or by mail, 25c a bottle. C. A. VOORHEES, M.D., Phila., Pa.

degrees. This nearly balances the books, which advises that nature must not be abused at present for her conduct, but must be conditioned a period longer when she will open her box of weather "goodies."

Harland Lough, a Fairview young man who left Wesleyan college, where he was a student to join the navy, writes frequently to his sister, Mrs. J. W. Custer, of Edgway, from the training station at Norfolk and in a recent letter he enclosed the following bit of verse which he says is popular with the boys there:

THE ROOKIE'S PRAYER.  
(After one month's service.)  
Now I lay me down to sleep,  
I pray the Lord my gear to keep.  
Grant no other sailor'll take  
Socks or shoes before I wake.

Lord please guard me in my slumber  
And keep this hammock on its number.  
May no dew nor lashings break  
And let me down before I wake.

Keep me safely in Thy sight,  
Grant no evil drills at night.  
And in the morning let me wake  
Breathing scents of sirlolin steak.

God protect me in my dreams,  
And make this better than it seems.  
Grant the time may swiftly fly,  
When myself shall rest on high.

In a snowy feather bed,  
Where I long to lay my head,  
Far away from all these scenes,  
From the smell of all half baked beans

Take me back unto the land,  
Where they don't scrub down with sand,  
Where no demon typhoon blows,  
Where women wash all the clothes.

God Thou knowest all my woes,  
Feed me in my dying throes;  
Take me back, I'll promise then,  
Over to leave "Home Sweet Home" again.  
—Copyrighted, 1917—Sea Going Tony.

## Death an Uninvited Guest of the Holidays

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Mumford and sons have returned from Baltimore where they had spent the last two weeks. Mr. Mumford and family went there to spend the holidays with Mrs. Mumford's parents Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Stutler. On Christmas eve however Mr. Stutler was taken seriously ill from heart trouble brought on by indigestion and died within a few minutes. The deceased was a farmer residing about 30 miles from Baltimore. His wife and seven children survive him.

## Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

## OFF TO THE WAR! When Women Fight

The fact that Russian women to-morrow will be called the "Battalion of Death," which was the first regiment of the kind in the history of civilization, has stirred up the question whether our women could form a line of defense for the United States.

Every woman's burden in the war are lightened when she turns to the right medicine. If her existence is made gloomy by the chronic weaknesses, delicate derangements, and painful disorders that afflict her sex, she will find relief and emancipation from her troubles in Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. If she's overworked, nervous, or "run-down," she finds new life and strength. It's a powerful, invigorating tonic and nerve which was discovered and used by an eminent physician for many years in "female complaints" and weaknesses. For young girls just entering womanhood, for women at critical times; in bearing-down sensations, pains, ulceration, inflammation, and kindred ailments, the "Favorite Prescription" will surely benefit. This herbal tonic is prepared with glycerin.

The "Prescription" contains no alcohol, and is now sold in tablet form by almost all druggists for 60 cents. Send 10 cents to Dr. Pierce, Invalids' Hotel, Buffalo, N. Y., for large trial package of tablets.

## JOIN OUR Christmas Savings Club NOW OPEN

It offers an exceptional opportunity for you to accumulate a fund for Christmas or other purposes. It's Free! No Fees! No Fines! Nothing to lose.

Tell us the amount you wish to save and we will arrange the payments.

If for any reason you should not keep up your payments you will get back every cent you paid in. Join this club yourself. Get the family and friends to join also. Come to the bank and let us explain anything you wish to know. Get the savings habit—it's a good one.

## The Peoples National Bank of Fairmont

## RUFF STUFF

Butter sells at \$2.25 per pound in Berlin it is said.

That makes it easier to get along without it.

It never gets so far out of reach in this country that we do not buy it.

Of course the pipe line people are worried a lot because they could not get here for that conference.

It simply breaks their hearts to go on taking the gas away from West Virginia.

But the longer they stay away the less they will have to think about the West Virginians will have more.

So we probably will have to go

Government is going to control the binder twice supplies this year. That'll give the Dakota farmers one more thing to be mad at the government about.

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